



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

June 16, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

Tonight I will be serving as the keynote speaker at the graduation proceedings for the **Female Leadership Academy 2005/2006**. The **Female Leadership Academy Project** is presented by **ACT for Women and Girls**, the **Kaweah Delta Health Care District**, and is sponsored by the **Women's Foundation of California**.

Congratulations to all of tonight's graduates. You really do represent the future of not only the **Central Valley**, but the **State of California**. Your hard work and commitment to public service is setting a fantastic example for your communities.

The **Female Leadership Academy** is the primary project of the **Advocacy Coalition of Tulare County for Women and Girls (ACT)**, a volunteer based group of people who are committed to eradicating the oppression that lies deep in the roots of **Tulare County** and its surrounding **Central Valley** region. They empower women to be leaders and raise their voices to be heard in ways that impact our society.

This year is the inaugural class of 12 graduates. The **Women's Foundation of California** funded this pilot project and **ACT** partnered with **Kaweah Delta's Youth Connect Program**. This **Academy** targets young women living in **Tulare County** between the ages of 15-22. It is an eight month program with bimonthly skills building and leadership development meetings, four all day retreats, attending statewide conferences (i.e. **International Women's Day**), lobbying in **Sacramento** and completing community projects.

This year's class, the first-ever graduating class of the Female Leadership Project, is comprised of the following individuals:

Crystal Ramos
Jordan Saunderson
Sydney Nicole Perry
Stephanie Sanchez
Ashley G. Reyes
Lauren Gray

Jordan Rae Kruse
Sarah Khawja
Regina Katherine Saiz
Brittani Miller
Savannah Estrada
Grace Kim

The primary **objectives of the Leadership Academy** are: to increase knowledge of women's issues internationally, nationally, statewide and locally; to develop leadership skills among local women and girls; and to provide opportunities that connect local women and girls to statewide and national initiatives and movements.

NOW, TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

I had the pleasure to meet with the **California Dairy Leaders Program**. This year the program selected 10 individuals from across the state. The selected individuals participate in a number of programs designed to

prepare them to take leadership roles in the next generation of dairy organizations. I would like to extend my congratulations to **Vance Ahlem** (Hilmar) **David Barroso** (Merced) **Jonathan DeGroot** (Fresno) **Robert S. McCune** (Hilmar) **Larry Pietrowski** (Madera) **Mark Plantenga** (Bakersfield) **Henry Van de Pol** (Escalon) **Simon Vander Woude** (Merced) **Joshua Zonneveld** (Laton) and **Kristy Rocha** (Modesto) for their selection as this year's class.

The **WIC** coordinator for **United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley**, **Gloria Pecina** stopped by my capitol office to discuss the great work they are doing.

WIC is the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children**, a 100% federally funded program providing nutritious food (via prescriptive checks), individual counseling and nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to other needed services to at-risk, low-to-moderate income (up to 185% of the federal poverty level) women and children up to the age of five.

The purpose of the **WIC Program is to prevent infant mortality**, low birth weight and other poor birth outcomes, and to improve the nutrition and health of participants. Dozens of scientific studies have shown **WIC** to be a cost-effective and positive public health intervention.

For detailed information about **WIC**, including income eligibility guidelines, the foods currently provided, and how to find nearby **WIC** sites, please go to the California Department of Health Services WIC website at www.wicworks.ca.gov.

Also this week, one of my bills, **AB 272**, passed by a vote of 6-0, from the **Senate Public Safety Committee**. **AB 272** expands an existing classification of deputy sheriffs to **Inyo, Kings and Tulare Counties** that will afford these counties needed flexibility to operate their custodial facilities.

This bill is very important because it will give the counties involved much more flexibility in the way they run their custodial facilities. Seventeen other countries have access to this classification and I believe **Inyo, Kings and Tulare Counties** should have the same access.

Sparsely-populated counties such as **Inyo, Kings and Tulare** will be able to use this new classification of deputies to more efficiently and effectively staff custodial facilities and allow other deputies greater patrol and response times throughout the county. **AB 272** brings **Inyo, Kings, and Tulare Counties** into line with the 17 other counties in the state who are currently taking advantage of this classification.

AB 272 is supported by the **California State Sheriffs' Association**; the **California Organization of Police and Sheriffs**; the **Inyo County Board of Supervisors**; and **Inyo County Sheriff Dan Lucas**.

AB 272 now heads to the **Senate Floor** for further consideration.

I had the opportunity to discuss the **Tulare Basin Land Protection Planning Study** with **Pat Marchbanks** from **Bear Mountain Truck Stop**. Our discussion of this important legislative issue was both informative and engaging.

I sat down with **David Reimer**, Pres. & CEO of **Palm Village Retirement Community** in Reedley to discuss potential legislation in regards to freeing up nurses time in skilled nursing facilities. I am pleased with the ongoing discussions and look forward to working with Mr. Reimer to find a solution that will benefit everyone.

*****HELPFUL STATE GOVERNMENT LINKS*****

I would like to encourage everyone to visit the California issue area web sites below. They are very informative and really interesting.

California Climate Change Portal

Sponsored by the California Climate Change Center to combine information on the impacts of climate change on California and the state's policies relating to global warming.

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/>

California Business Portal

This website provides a portal to a number of resources for starting, growing, financing, expanding or relocating a business in California.

<http://www.calbusiness.ca.gov/>

Governor Releases 2006 - 2007 State Budget

Visit the Department of Finance's E-Budget to view the Governor's New 2006 - 2007 California State Budget.

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>

Where can I find information about entering my child into kindergarten?

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fb/yr03compulsoryed.asp>

Become active in community service activities by visiting the web site for the California Service Corps

<http://www.csc.ca.gov/>

Gasoline and diesel prices have increased across the United States after Hurricane Katrina damaged the Gulf Coast petroleum infrastructure. Although California has adequate gasoline supplies, prices have climbed to over \$3.00 a gallon.

Take action and learn how you can save gasoline and money.

http://www.fypower.org/save_gasoline/

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1858: In a speech in Springfield, IL, U.S. Senate candidate Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be

resolved. He declared, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

1897: The U.S. government signed a treaty of annexation with Hawaii.

1958: Hungarian Prime Minister Imre Nagy was hanged for treason. He had been the prime minister during the

1956: uprising that was crushed by Soviet tanks.

1963: 26-year-old Valentina Tereshkova went into orbit aboard the Vostok 6 spacecraft for three days. She was the first female space traveler.

1978: U.S. President Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos ratified the Panama Canal treaties.

1992: U.S. President George Bush welcomed Russian President Boris Yeltsin to a meeting in Washington, DC.

The two agreed in principle to reduce strategic weapon arsenals by about two-thirds by the year 2003.

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